an increase. The price of Bajra, Milk, Fish, Kerosene, Bulbs and Salt have shown a decline and the prices of Coke, Atta and Safety Matches have remained steady. The rise in the prices of some commodities are due to gap in the supply and demand, routine lean period of supply, inability of the Government to import edible oils and pulses and difficulties in the movement of goods through rails.

(c) The present Government attaches highest priority to contain price rise within reasonable limits. Efforts are being made to restrain the growth in money supply, effect economy in Government expenditure, ensure better supply and demand management of 'sensitive commodities', strengthening and streamlining of Public Distribution System, strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term. With a view to monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. It is expected that all these measures will have a desirable effect on containing the rising trend in the prices within reasonable limits.

Price trend of essential commodities

144. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the weekwise price trend in respect of essential commodities like edible oil, sugar, vegetable, tea etc. during the last two months; and

(b) what measures have been taken to control the price trend and what has been the response thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A statement showing the weekly percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities for the last two months (8-6-91 to 10-8-91) is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLX, Annexure No. 4].

(b) The present Government attaches the highest priority to contain price rise within reasonable limits. Efforts are being made to restrain the growth in money supply, effect economy in Government expenditure and ensure better supply and demand management of 'sensitive commodities', strengthening and streamlining of Public Distribution System, strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term with a view to monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. As a result of these measures, the prices of some of the items like Kerosene, Bulbs, Fish, Sugar, Gram, Bajra etc. have shown a decline in recent weeks and that of Coke, Atta, Vanaspati and Safety Matches have remained steady.

Failure of STC in Purchasing Newsprint

145. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the burden of Rs. 60

crores on to the newspaper industry due to the failure of STC to make timely purchase of newsprint in foreign currency;

(b) whether it is a fact that newspaper industry had made advance payment to STC for their requirements; and

(c) whether Government would ask STC to bear the loss for their mistakes and prevent passing burden on to newspaper industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The matter has been resolved on mutually agreed cost-sharing basis between the industry and State Trading Corporation.

(b) The State Trading Corporation have informed that the Industry pays only at the time of lifting of the goods.

(c) No, Sir.

Violation of present composition of UPSC

146. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present composition of the Union Public Service Commission is violating established norms of the UPSC composition;

(b) if so, what is the established norm of the composition and what are the points of violation;

(c) what are the reasons that non-IAS personnel have not been appointed in pursuance of established norms;

(d) when the present members of the UPSC were appointed and what are the terms and conditions of their employment; and

(e) what corrective measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) According to the proviso to Article 316(1) of the Constitution, as nearly as may be one half of the members of the Union Public Service Commission shall be persons who at the dates of their respective appointments have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State. The present composition of the Union Public Service Commission is given in the attached statement.

(c) At present, four Members of the UPSC are retired IAS officers while five retired non-IAS officers. The other two are from the non-governmental category.

(d) The dates of appointments and the dates of expiry of tenure of Chairman/Members are given in the attached Statement (*See below*) Under Article 316(2) of the Constitution, a Member of the Union Public Service Commission shall hold office for a term of six years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

(e) The Constitutional provision will be kept in view while filling up vacancies of Chairman/Members of the Commission.